The following further measures are under consideration of SAIL:

(i) revamping of turbo generators to bring down the steam rate.

(ii) Revamping of turbo-blowers to reduce their steam consumption and in the process release more steam of power generation.

(iii) Revamping of water treatment plant.

(iv) Augmentation of coal and ash handling facilities.

(v) Replacement of some of the old boilers which are mainly gas based to fluidised coal finding to improve steam availability.

(vi) Installation of medium pressure bolers to reduce diversion of high pressure steam for process use.

(vii) Provision of one additional high pressure boiler of 150 tonnes per hour capacity.

(c) A new Captive Power Plant of 2 X 60 MW capacity is under construction at Rourkela. Unit I is expected to be commissioned in December, 1986 and Unit II by October, 1987. In the new Captive Power Plant, a number of new facilities have been provided keeping in view the problems faced at the present plant. This has been done with a view to optimise power generation at the new Captive Power Plant.

(d) There are a number of different factors due to which generation at this Power Plant has been low as indicated in Parts (a) and (b) above and it is not possible to fix responsibility for this on any particular individual.

**Quality of steel produced in India**

1773. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of steel produced by many steel plants in the country is far below the standard prescribed by the Indian Standards Institute; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to adopt modern and cost effective methods of production in the steel plants to improve the quality and lower t he cost of production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir, The quality of steel supplied from SAIL steel plants meets with all the stipulations of the grade prescribed by the Indian Standards Institution.

(b) Strict quality control measures are taken at every stage of processing right from intake of raw materials to production of final rolled product. Compliance to quality control norms is checked by research and control laboratory personnel in the production shops round the clock. Automation and sophisticated control of process parameters are being planned and getting introduced at blast furnace, steel melting shop, soaking pits and reheating furnaces and at the rolling stage. Sophisticated technology of vaccum degassing and ladle metallurgy are being planned for introduction in the near future.

Cost of production is expected to be controlled through higher production and productivity, better utilisation of capacities, better technological norms. These objectivaties will be achieved through technological upgradation, better maintenance and debottlenecking of the plants.

The following measures, some of which are of a continuing nature, have been taken by SAIL to control the costs of production:—

(i) There is regular monitoring of cost of production both at the corporate and plant level. The variances are brought to the notice of management and discussed for corrective action.

(ii) The Corporate management has laid greater emphasis on the need to reduce cost of production

by stressing the necessity for optimal utilisation of available resources within the organisation.

(iii) The costs like overtime and demurrage are being controlled through strict monetary limits.

(iv) SAIL has drawn up programmes of energy conservation.

These have been discussed at the Board level for implementation.

(v) A programme of modernisation is being undertaken to improve the condition of the plants.

**Slow progress of Narmada Sagar Project**

1774. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the factors responsible for the sold construction work at the Narmada Sagar Project;

(b) the time schedule for completion of the project; and

(c) the escalation in the cost due to slow progress?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The slow progress is due to non-clearance of the project from environmental and forest angle and constraint of resources.

(b) The Dam and Power House are likely to be completed in a period of about 8 years after getting the necessary clearances and award of the works contract. The irrigation component is likely to take about two decades for completion.

(c) As the increase in cost is due to many factors including rise in prices, it is difficult to indicate the exact amount of increase on this account.

**Core sector fertilizer plants**

1775. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of core sector fertilizer plants, the capital investment made in each plant, and plant-wise production capacity of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash;

(b) the date of commissioning of each plant;

(c) how many plants are more than twenty-five years old;

(d) what steps are being taken to modernise these plants; and

(e) whether it is a fact that per unit cost of production of Nitrogen Phosphorus and Potash, is more in all units; if so, the details regarding per unit cost of production of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash, Plant-wise, particularly in respect of fertilizer plants of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) A statement furnishing the information is attached.

[See Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 70]

(c) Udyogamandal of FACT and Nangal I of NFL are the two plants which are more than 25 years old.

(d) The managements of the above plants have proposed revamping and renovation of the plants.

(e) A comparison of the actual cost of production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers between the old and the new units cannot be made as unit-wise details are not available. Potash is not manufactured in the country and is totally imported. However, retention price in respect